



# Quality Assurance Bulletin

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Program Support Bureau

Los Angeles County, Department of Mental Health

## PROCEDURE CODES ALERT

### ACCURATE USAGE OF INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOTHERAPY VERSUS INDIVIDUAL REHABILITATION PROCEDURE CODES

The necessity for this Code Alert became apparent when a significant coding error rate was discovered following a review by the Department Compliance Program Office staff of DMH and Contractor claiming transactions for October, November, and December 2006. Based on the review, it appears there is significant and widespread confusion between Individual Psychotherapy and Individual Rehabilitation types of service. Staff not eligible to use Individual Psychotherapy procedure codes for services they provide were, in fact, using these codes. The purpose of this Code Alert is to ensure that the distinction between these services is clear.

#### Individual Psychotherapy – Procedure code use restricted to five licensed disciplines providing psychotherapy

Page 3 of the December 18, 2006 Procedure Code Guide defines Individual Psychotherapy services (procedure codes 90804, 90806, 90808, 90810, 90812, and 90814). The service must be entirely psychotherapy. It specifies that **any staff claiming services using this code must be licensed, registered, waived, or student professionals (with co-signature) in the following disciplines: Physicians, Clinical Psychologists, Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Nurse Practitioners/Registered Nurses.**

#### Individual Rehabilitation – Procedure code use restricted only by appropriate scope of practice for the service being rendered

Page 5 of the Procedure Code Guide defines Individual Rehabilitation services (procedure code H2015). It specifies that any staff operating within his/her training/experience and scope of practice may use this code. If unlicensed staff are involved in the delivery of a mental health service to an individual, whether independently or along with licensed staff, the service may only be claimed using H2015. This code is to be used by all staff, licensed or unlicensed, who are delivering Rehab services.

#### Claims Monitoring Management Responsibility

The Department's commitment to ethical practices requires that all claims comply with the Procedure Code Guide. Management staff, contract and directly-operated, are reminded of their responsibility to ensure this compliance. It is imperative that managers have in place a process for the review of claims to ensure accuracy prior to their submission.

Should you have any questions, please contact your Service Area Procedure Codes Liaisons (see attached).

c: Executive Leadership Team  
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QIC Chairs  
Procedure Code Liaisons  
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